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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Fifty-fourth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 55th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Monday, 20 April 1998, at 6.10 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. GALLEGOS CHIRIBOGA (Ecuador)
(Vice-Chairman)

later: Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh)
(Vice-Chairman)

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GE.98-13538 (E)

In the absence of Mr. Selebi (South Africa)
Mr. Gallegos Chiriboga (Ecuador), Vice-Chairman
took the Chair

The meeting was called to order at 6.10 p.m.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS (agenda item 21)
(E/CN.4/1998/45, 104 and Corr. 1-2, and 122; E/CN.4/1998/NGO/68 and 92)

1. Mr. ERMAKOV (Russian Federation) said that the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, in which 171 countries had participated, had reinforced the principles of the Universal Declaration adopted in 1948 by a comparatively small number of States. In spite of the steady progress achieved over the past five years in strengthening human rights, much remained to be done, and the current review was timely.

2. In the Russian Federation, the Declaration and Programme of Action had provided a stimulus and guide for the establishment of a sound legislative and judicial basis for the promotion of democratic values and human rights, including the adoption of a new democratic Constitution reinforcing civic rights and freedoms. The Federation had joined the Council of Europe and ratified the European Convention on Human Rights, and the conventions against torture and on the protection of the rights of national minorities. A moratorium was in force on the carrying-out of capital sentences, and legislation was being enacted on judicial and penal reform, equal rights for women, and the protection of vulnerable groups, such as national and religious minorities, indigenous peoples, and the physically disabled.

3. National institutes could make a valuable contribution to the development of a human rights culture, and it was essential that they should operate at both federal and regional levels throughout the country. In implementing the Vienna recommendations, it was essential that the principles of universality, the right to development and non-discrimination should be respected.

4. Support for democracy and the development of human rights must be achieved through a widening of international cooperation, which would entail a strengthening of coordination and the incorporation of human rights into all United Nations programmes. His Government supported the conclusion of the Vienna Conference that cooperation between States and international institutions should concentrate primarily on giving effect to existing international standards, leaving the adoption of additional standards till a the later phase. To that end technical cooperation programmes should be given priority and appropriate financing. His delegation also supported the preparation by the High Commissioner, acting in close cooperation with Governments, of proposals for the rationalization of United Nations human rights mechanisms with a view to increaed efficiency.

5. Mr. VASSYLENKO (Ukraine) said that the international community's commitment to the principle of the universality and indivisibility of human rights, reconfirmed at the World Conference, was fundamental to all its endeavours in that field. Human rights were an essential component of social, political and economic progress, and necessitated close cooperation between

States and international institutions. The elaboration of new standards was also important, including preventive programmes to ban the exploitation of ethnic factors for political purposes, protect the environment, guarantee the right to self-determination, and establish State responsibility for gross violations of human rights.

6. He agreed with the view expressed in the High Commissioner's report (E/CN.4/1998/104) that although the drafting of new legal rules was a time-consuming process, every effort should be made to carry it forward with the greatest possible dispatch. A strong advisory services and technical cooperation programme could make a major contribution to national capacity-building, and his delegation looked forward to the results of the High Commissioner's analysis of existing United Nations technical assistance mechanisms and proposals for improving coordination. In particular, human rights programmes should be more closely integrated with those relating to development, population, criminal jurisdiction and education, and special emphasis should be placed on the implementation of joint projects. Ukraine had requested assistance under the High Commissioner's technical cooperation programme and looked forward to working closely with it.

7. A wide gap remained between aspirations and achievements in a world in which torture was still practised, more than a billion people lived in poverty, children were viciously exploited, and the needs of the elderly neglected. Those situations clearly required the most diligent attention of both Governments and international institutions, and it was regrettable that overburdened United Nations bodies, unable to pay sufficient attention to particular features affecting individual States, sometimes asked stock questions and made stock assessments. He confirmed his Government's commitment to active cooperation with the United Nations system in the protection and promotion of human rights.

8. Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh) said that the Universal Declaration had inspired the drafting of his country's Constitution and was the fountainhead of most of its legislation. Bangladesh was a democratic and pluralistic country, fully guaranteeing civil and political rights, but it saw them as linked to the search for social harmony and economic development. Accordingly, it applauded the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which recognized the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights, including the right to development.

9. Since the Commissions's previous session, his Government had decided to set up a national human rights institution and to appoint a national ombudsman. Village courts were also to be established in order to ensure easy access to justice for the common people. A law commission had been set up to consider the ratification of various international instruments, and recommendations by a working group on accession to six of them were under active consideration. Reservations to articles 13 (a) and 16 (1.f) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women had been withdrawn, and reservations to other instruments were under review.

10. His delegation welcomed the Commission's decision to provide for a special discussion of gender issues. In Bangladesh the participation of women in socio-economic life was being facilitated through such innovative

mechanisms as "micro-credit". Following the historic peace accord of 2 December 1997, the decades-old dispute with the tribal minorities in the south-eastern Hill Districts had found a satisfactory conclusion. New legislation made provision for a "regional council" to supervise general administration and development in the Hill Districts and amend local legislation. In order to raise community awareness of human rights, a special programme was planned, in which the implementation of the Plan of Action of the United Nations Human Rights Decade (1995-2004) would be given a prominent place.

11. Mr. HASSAN (Pakistan) said that the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and the establishment of the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights were significant developments in the promotion and protection of human rights. The most shocking violations often took place in the course of armed conflicts and foreign occupation, which the United Nations must seek to prevent by arbitration and other forms of peace promotion. The High Commissioner's Office should establish a special cell to deal with violations in areas under foreign occupation, to which specific sections of the reports of working groups and special rapporteurs should also be devoted.

12. No agreement had been reached at Vienna on the streamlining and strengthening of existing human rights machinery, but what was certainly required was a strengthening of the mechanisms for eliminating the root causes of human rights violations, wider recognition of the concept of individual responsibility, and an enhanced role for NGOs.

13. An alarming trend was emerging in the international community of concentrating attention upon the defence of civil and political rights, leaving advocacy of the right to development to the representatives of developing countries. Now that that right had at last been accepted, the challenge was to specify and implement the duties and entitlements that flowed from it. While the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights clearly recognized the right "to an adequate standard of living" and the 1986 Declaration on the Right to Development recognized collective responsibility for development, there remained hundreds of millions of poor people around the globe who had no hope of an improvement in their standards of living. Powerful States in a position to break the vicious circle of poverty must not shirk their responsibilities. His delegation continued to believe that a special rapporteur on the right to development could make a valuable contribution.

14. The Declaration and Plan of Action related not only to the international community and national authorities, but also to civil society. In particular, the adoption of the draft declaration on human rights defenders at the Commission's current session in response to the call by the Vienna Declaration was a reaffirmation of the important role of civil society in the promotion and protection of human rights. Pakistan had a long-established, strong and articulate human rights movement, with some 10,000 associated NGOs.

15. Mr. MORJANE (Tunisia) said that Tunisia's contribution to the implementation of the Vienna Declaration was a comprehensive, multidimensional approach to development, including measures to give practical effect to the

right to education in general, human rights education, promotion of the rights of the child and consolidation of the basic rights of women. Among the numerous reforms inspired by the Vienna Declaration was action to achieve overall and sustainable development based on the conviction that political rights could not be strengthened without satisfaction of economic and social needs.

16. Tunisia's development strategy had enabled it to raise the standard of living of its citizens by means of the widest possible distribution of the fruits of growth and a series of measures to improve the social environment. One of the most important had been the establishment, on the initiative of the Head of State, of the National Solidarity Fund, financed by voluntary contributions by citizens, enterprises and State grants. The Fund had substantially raised the standard of living in underprivileged areas by ensuring dignified living conditions. Its success had encouraged the authorities to set up a Tunisian Solidarity Bank to make credit available to people not eligible under traditional financing conditions.

17. Additional measures had also been taken in support of women, the family, children, migrant workers, the disabled and the elderly. Another major reform had been the introduction of human rights teaching at all levels of the educational system; chairs of human rights had been established in Tunisian universities, integrated with courses in the higher institutes for the magistrature and training schools for law enforcement officials. On 3 April 1996, a National Commission on Human Rights Education had also been established.

18. The deterioration in the world economic and social situation had been accompanied by increasing conflict, extremism, fanaticism and terrorism, which threatened national and international security and represented a major obstacle to the full realization of human rights. The international community must respond by renewing the Vienna consensus on the necessity of giving equal importance to individual and collective rights, and to economic, social and cultural rights.

19. Mr. Chowdhury (Bangladesh), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

20. Mr. SCHAEFER (Germany) said that, as part of its national follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, Germany had submitted a report mainly concerned with the incorporation of the Vienna recommendations, particularly on the right to development, into German development cooperation. The report emphasized that that landmark document was more than a compendium of recommendations; it consolidated the foundation laid by the Universal Declaration for the promotion of human rights. Although a heightened international awareness of human rights had prepared the way for the Vienna consensus, a regrettable degree of resistance still persisted, and Germany looked to the forthcoming World Conference on Racism for the achievement of further advances.

21. In order to counter the tragic increase in human rights violations triggered by internal conflicts, preventive diplomacy must be strengthened, and his Government welcomed the growing recognition that the operational capabilities of the High Commissioner needed to be strengthened. The share of

human rights in the regular United Nations budget must also be brought into line with the declared priority of those activities within the United Nations system; his Government had added its voice to the European Union's advocacy of that course. The administrative reforms set in motion in Geneva were creating the preconditions for greater coordination and operational efficiency in the human rights field. The current session of the Commission had again shown that the potential for constructive dialogue was far from exhausted, and Germany would continue to seek new areas for such dialogue. His delegation welcomed the decision (1998/208) by the Economic and Social Council to devote the coordination segment of its forthcoming substantive session to the follow-up and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

22. Mr. ZAHRAN (Observer for Egypt) said that the High Commissioner's first report made the very important point that the universality of human rights did not mean that there was only one model of social, political or legal organization. It set the standard for an emerging era in which communication and collaboration between States and peoples would determine their prosperity and indeed survival. His delegation also endorsed the High Commissioner's reiteration of the importance of the right to development and the emphasis she laid on the interrelation between sustainable economic and social development and the achievement of civil and political rights. Technical cooperation in the field of human rights was one of the main instruments for their protection and promotion. The advisory services were making a major contribution to developing and sustaining respect for human rights, and to the move away from confrontation to cooperation and dialogue. It was therefore essential: that technical assistance should not be linked to political preconditions; that advisory services should be funded from the ordinary budget; and that, although playing a welcome and valuable role, the voluntary fund should not be made an alternative to pledged country contributions to the ordinary budget.

23. Ms. WISZBERG (Human Rights Internet) said that, in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration and as part of the follow-up to the Vienna Conference, her organization had joined some 30 major international and regional NGOs in organizing a consultation in Ottawa in late June. The results would be presented to the July session of the Economic and Social Council and to the autumn session of the General Assembly.

24. Mr. MENDEZ (Commission for the Defence of Human Rights in Central America) said that while major advances had been made at the international level in the defence of the rights of women, the same could not be said for the internal legislation of countries or for the quality of women's daily lives. In spite of the commitment of States in the Beijing World Plan of Action to intensify efforts to achieve the targets of the Nairobi Strategies for the Advancement of Women, they continued to live in an androcentric culture that perpetuated gender violence. The injustices and violence suffered by women were considered "specific" and therefore not violations of human rights in general.

25. One of the many obstacles to women's full enjoyment of a dignified life was the perpetuation of myths, laws, rituals and attitudes which consigned women to an inferior status and sought to justify violence. One way of righting that situation would be to adopt national and international laws

safeguarding the human rights of women, and recognizing the fact that gender violence was not only intrafamiliar, but affected women in all departments of their lives. Her organization supported the adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and called on the Commission to urge States to give effect to the various agreements adopted at world summits, especially the Beijing Agreements.

26. Mr. LITTMAN (Association for World Education), speaking also on behalf of Christian Solidarity International, said that, as the Greek historian Thucydides had pointed out, the basis of humanitarian law was reciprocity. In the light of the wholesale massacres and acts of ethnic, religious and tribal vengeance being perpetrated on many continents, it was obvious that mankind had still not learned that lesson. He drew attention to the reference, in paragraph 23 of the High Commissioner's note on the May meeting of special rapporteurs and other officials concerned with human rights (E/CN.4/1998/45) to Commission decision 1997/125, taken without a vote, which expressed indignation at a reference to Islam and the Holy Koran in the report by the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and requested the Rapporteur to take corrective action. His Association wished to express the strongest opposition to the curtailment of freedom of expression in the United Nations by self-censorship resulting from doctrinal accusations. The Commission decision set a dangerous precedent, and was one more manifestation of creeping "cultural relativism". He hoped that at coming meetings of the type reported on in the High Commissioner's note firm action would be taken to halt that trend.

27. Turning to incitement to genocide, he said that his organization had repeatedly urged the application of the 1948 Genocide Convention, which declared that not only should genocide be punished, but also conspiracy to commit genocide, and direct and public incitement to genocide. He therefore welcomed draft resolution E/CN.4/1998/L.14 stressing the need for universal ratification of the Convention, which should, however, include: strong condemnation of any direct or public incitement to commit genocide, or of any call to kill in the name of God or religion; recommendations that any State party to the Genocide Convention aware of such incitement should invoke article VIII, and that the World Criminal Court should be given authority to act; and an expression of the view that the competent organs of the United Nations should condemn any public incitement to genocide.

28. Mr. FAROOQ (World Muslim Congress) said his organization agreed with the High Commissioner's view that too many serious human rights violations continued to occur every day for the international community to feel satisfied with the progress achieved in the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. The follow-up exercise should focus on methods of strengthening existing human rights mechanisms for effective intervention, and he fully shared the High Commissioner's concern that women and a disproportionate number of minors constituted the overwhelming majority of victims of violence and conflicts.

29. The Commission should give special attention to situations where the rule of law did not exist or had been suspended, as in armed conflicts. On

most occasions, the international community had reacted too late and had then done too little, as in the case of Bosnia, Cambodia and Rwanda, and recently crisis point had been reached in Kosovo too. Another situation calling for international action was that of Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, where extrajudicial killings and other grave violations of human rights, including the rape and molestation of women and minors, and the destruction of buildings and institutions were daily occurrences. In that case, the occupation forces had been given impunity under special legislation enacted by the Indian Government. Adoption of declarations and ratification of treaties could not achieve the desired objectives unless there were effective implementation mechanisms.

30. Mr. MORA (Center for European Studies) expressed regret that the five-year review was being conducted without prior regional evaluations. There was, however, still time for Governments, NGOs and international organizations to submit proposals based on their own experiences. In order to give full effect to the principles of universality, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights, there must be evaluation of the fulfilment by Governments of their duty to allocate increasing resources to guaranteeing and promoting the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights.

31. The problems arising from the indebtedness of developing countries, and the impact of adjustment policies imposed by IMF, the World Bank and other international financial institutions had not received proper consideration. The undertaking of the developed countries to allocate 0.7 per cent of their GNP to development aid had not been honoured, and the amount currently contributed amounted to a mere 0.3 per cent.

32. Progress must also be made in the strengthening of the Centre for Human Rights and the Office of the High Commissioner, and there should be more equitable geographical representation of the African, Asian and Latin American regions in the Centre and in the appointment of thematic rapporteurs. NGOs should be given fuller participation in both United Nations and national human rights mechanisms; and cooperation should be increased with the mechanisms created under major human rights conventions and established by successive human rights summit meetings. It was also necessary to reaffirm the principles of non-selectivity and non-manipulation of United Nations protection and promotion mechanisms.

33. Mr. PARY (Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru") said that the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration and the fifth anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action must not be reduced to empty rhetoric but must find its expression in the practical application and effective ratification of all human rights instruments, and the strengthening of protective mechanisms.

34. With regard to the rights and freedoms of indigenous peoples, the Vienna Conference had urged States to give priority consideration to several matters of crucial importance for indigenous survival. It had asked the Sub-Commission's Working Group on Indigenous Populations to complete as promptly as possible the elaboration of the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, but some States were still delaying the process and endeavouring to dilute the draft provisions. In spite of the recognition by

the Conference of the intrinsic dignity and incomparable contribution of indigenous peoples to the progress of civilizations, their cultural heritage was being exposed to the ravages of time and modern technology, and threatened with irreparable loss by pillage and illicit traffic in their cultural and artistic treasures. He welcomed the study by Mrs. Daes of principles and guidelines in the preservation of the indigenous cultural heritage, which deserved to be given the seal of the Commission's approval through the adoption of a draft resolution.

35. Ms. MACIAS (Federation of Associations for the Defence and Promotion of Human Rights) said that impunity, with its implicit condonation of the crime committed, was an essential ingredient in flagrant violations of human rights, and her organization welcomed the recognition of the importance of the struggle against it in paragraph 91 of the second part of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. For that reason she also welcomed the current hearings in the Spanish High Court on the disappearance of Spaniards during the military dictatorships in Argentina and Chile, and the similar proceedings in Italy and elsewhere. A favourable outcome to those cases would contribute to the struggle against impunity by underscoring the existence of a universal penal jurisdiction. It was therefore particularly regrettable that such proceedings were constantly hindered by the Governments concerned, and she appealed to the delegations of Chile and Argentina to use their good offices in support of the hearings. She urged the Commission itself, to support the competence of the national courts to try cases where crimes against humanity had occurred in other countries.

36. As to criminal assaults against human rights defenders, the legitimate participation of NGOs and their members in the human rights sphere was recognized by paragraph 38 of the first part of the Declaration and Programme of Action, which affirmed their right to protection under national laws. Contrary to those guarantees, human rights defender Eduardo Umaña Mendoza had recently been murdered in Colombia, as had a number of his colleagues. The 11-year-old son of Luis Guillermo Perez Casas, a practising lawyer and deputy secretary-general of an international human rights organization, had been the object of telephone threats in Brussels, having been previously forced to leave Colombia in the face of similar threats. She urged the Commission to remind the Colombian Government of its duty to take effective measures for the protection of human rights defenders, and to prosecute paramilitary groups and any officials or agents involved in human rights violations in association with them.

37. Mr. KIRCHER (Latin American Federation of Associations of Relatives of Disappeared Detainees) said the most disappointing feature to emerge from a review of the objectives of the Declaration and Programme of Action was the number of Governments seeking to suppress knowledge of the human rights situation in their countries or to minimize its gravity. The only valid measure of progress was a reduction in the number of victims of State crimes, which could only be achieved by political and regulatory decisions on prevention, the punishment of those responsible for outrages, and guarantees for victims' rights to truth, justice and reparation.

38. Regrettably, nothing had been done to prevent the repetition of such crimes, as in the case of the recent murder of human rights defender Eduardo Umaña Mendoza in Colombia, where failure by the Government to punish the perpetrators was perpetuating conditions favourable to repetition of such outrages. Since 16 June 1997, Colombian NGOs had been waiting in vain for a reply from President Samper to their request for State security files to be opened for investigation, and for the disbanding of paramilitary groups, including the so-called "Convivir". It was in the light of that situation that his organization called upon countries like Colombia, in reviewing their policies, to first establish whether under existing procedures there had been any substantial reduction in human rights violations, and whether the recommendations of existing mechanisms and bodies had been applied.

39. Ms. LUBERTINO (International Women's Tribune) said that the promises of the Declaration and Programme of Action would only be fulfilled when people throughout the world were aware of and enjoyed their rights. To that end, effective coordination must be established between the various international conferences and summits. It was not admissible that some rights should be defended while others were neglected. The gap between the powerful and the underprivileged had widened, with intolerable consequences.

40. Globalization was not in itself either good or bad; everything depended on whether it was made an opportunity for change or one more instrument of domination. Various Governments had spoken of their advanced legislation for the protection of women and children against exploitation but had failed to recognize that their policies of economic concentration were damaging health and social security, leading to insecurity of employment, to cutbacks in educational and social expenditure, and to the social exclusion of the poor and even the impoverishment of the middle class.

41. Article 5 of the Vienna Declaration on the universality, interdependence and indivisibility of human rights would remain ineffectual if many countries continued to maintain their reservations to human rights instruments or persisted in non-compliance with them in religious or cultural matters. In the evolving process of human rights, when the great majority of the world reached consensus, a right became universally recognized and could not be nullified by reservations; when States imposed the religious views of their ruling classes, they were violating the human rights of all. Such was the case in Afghanistan and also, for example, in Poland, where a law had been passed in December 1997 strictly forbidding abortion and punishing women reduced to the necessity of practising it. Her organization was campaigning for the abolition of limitations upon sexual and reproductive rights, and for the achievement of freedom of thought and religion and physical integrity by women.

42. In the follow-up to the Vienna Conference, the women of the world called for an increase in activities and resources for the implementation of its recommendations; for the elimination not only from legislation but also from practice of every form of discrimination against women; for the establishment of the right of women to live lives free from violence with full enjoyment of health, including their sexual and reproductive rights, together with a guarantee of their social, economic and cultural rights.

43. Mr. WOLD-MARIAM (International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples) said that the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action, which call for the participation of civil society through viable national NGOs, imposed a duty on Governments to make every effort to provide enabling environments for the establishment and free functioning of those bodies.

44. Among the regimes not only failing to comply with that obligation but intensifying intimidation of national NGOs was Ethiopia, which continued to refuse to register the Ethiopian Human Rights Council. There was no rule of law or due process in Ethiopia, where all the best-trained and most experienced judges and prosecutors had been dismissed and replaced by political appointees. The regime encouraged the use of trumped-up charges supported by witnesses tortured to testify against persons they had never met in their lives. It flouted all declarations and conventions, and extrajudicial executions, torture, forced disappearances and illegal detentions were rife. The freely organized Confederation of Ethiopian Trades Unions had been disbanded and replaced by a confederation under the control of props of the regime, and, with its president in jail, the Ethiopian Teachers' Association was paralysed. Journalists were also undergoing repression and persecution. He called upon the Commission, acting in pursuance of the principles of the Declaration and Programme of Action, to take urgent measures to ensure that regimes such as that in Ethiopia fully complied with international human rights standards.

45. Mr. GEBRIEL (World Federation of Democratic Youth) said that he wished to bring to the attention of the Commission the declaration of some 40 African NGOs which had participated in a five-day regional consultation at Kampala (Uganda) in February 1998. In essence, it stated that the African countries, acting in accordance with their commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the African Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights, called on African Governments, legislators and political elites: to repeal repressive legislation providing a basis for arbitrary arrest and political imprisonment; and to ensure the immediate and unconditional liberation of political detainees and their security through legal channels. They called on the civil society of every country of Africa to launch national and regional solidarity campaigns on behalf of victims of the struggle for democracy and human rights in Africa.

46. Mr. GETAHUN (Observer for Ethiopia), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the customary diatribe by the representative of the International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples against the Government of Ethiopia was in keeping with the stated political goal of that organization. That representative's statement had nothing to do with the agenda item under discussion and was in clear contravention of the Commission's rules of procedure. The organization, which camouflaged itself as a human rights organization, lamented the demise of the defunct dictatorial Dergue regime in Ethiopia and, since that regime could not be restored, it engaged in a persistent smear and vilification campaign against the democratically elected Government. Having failed as a political and propaganda mouthpiece of anti-government forces within and outside the country, it was becoming increasingly shrill and virulent in its attacks upon

the Ethiopian Government. It was essentially a discredited force, and history had shown that the ultimate fate of such forces was their demise. The present was not the time for relating the internationally-acclaimed achievements of Ethiopia, which were familiar to all observers possessing a minimum of objectivity. His delegation did not wish to dignify the scurrilous attacks that had been made upon his Government by rebutting them in detail.

47. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Commission had completed its general discussion of agenda item 21.

The meeting rose at 8 p.m.